



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

January 4, 2019

Emmanuel Freudenthal  
MuckRock News DEPT MR 62280  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144  
Via email: 62280-02893661@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Mr. Freudenthal:

This letter is in response to your Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of October 12, 2018, for the following records:

- 1 - Any photos taken during the mission to transport Ebola blood samples from Liberia to the US towards the end of 2016. This includes photos by employees as part of their work on this official mission, or photos by third party contractors.
- 2 - Any contracts or agreements with Phoenix Air to supply their services for the mission to transport Ebola blood samples from Liberia to the US towards the end of 2016 (signed by any institution such as CDC, DTRA, NIH, etc). I'm sure you'll have a copy of that.
- 3 - Any contracts or agreements with Sandia that you have at hand from 01 July 2013 and today regarding their work in Liberia (signed by any institution such as CDC, DTRA, NIH, etc). I'm sure you'll have a copy of that.
- 4 - Any Chain of Custody documents signed for the shipping of any Ebola blood samples from Liberia to the USA between 01/01/16 and 31 December 17. The staff responsible for the sample management at the CDC and NIH will have a copy of that.
- 5 - Any documents with information linked to blood samples that were transported from Liberia to the US from 01/01/17 to 01/11/17 (e.g. the name of the patient, their origin, their gender, their clinical signs etc). I do not require individual documents as I understand that the private information of patients cannot be disclosed. Please feel free to redact that personal information from any documents that contain lists. In case there are many documents that pertain to single individuals with the sample templates, then please provide one of each of the types of documents as a template.
- 6 - The agreement between Liberia and the US (signed by the Ambassador of the US in Liberia) signed around September 2016 for the transport of Ebola blood samples from Liberia to the US.
- 7 - Any inventory of Ebola blood samples held by the US that were brought from Liberia, including samples held at Fort Detrick and Rocky Mountain Lab.

Your request was assigned #19-00245-FOIA.

On December 15, 2018, you withdrew Item #3 of your request via email.

On December 18, 2018, you specified that for Item #2, you seek the following contracts: 75D30118P00787; HHSD200200615147I; HHSD2002012M50736P; HHSD2002014674P; HHSD2002014675P

#### **Extension of Time**

To ensure the most equitable treatment possible of all requesters, the CDC processes requests on a first-in, first-out basis, using a multiple track system based upon the estimated time it will take to process a request. Based on your description of the records you are seeking, your request has been placed in the complex

track. We will be unable to comply with the twenty-working-day time limit in this case, as well as the ten

additional days provided by the statute because we expect that we will have to:

- ☒ Search for and collect records from field facilities, archives, or locations other than the office processing the request.
- ☒ Search for, collect, or examine a great many records in response to a single request.
- ☐ Consult with another office or agency that has substantial interest in the determination of the request.
- ☒ Conduct negotiations with submitters and requesters of information to determine the nature and extent of non-disclosable proprietary materials.

In an effort to process your request promptly, you may wish to narrow the scope of your request to limit the volume of potentially responsive records. If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6277. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Services (OGIS) to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services; National Archives and Records Administration; 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS; College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

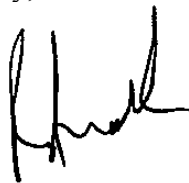
**Fee Category**

The FOIA and HHS FOI regulations allow agencies to recover part of the costs of processing FOIA requests. There may be a charge for these records. You have been classified as a News Media Requester and as such, you will not be charged fees unless you elect to receive any responsive records in hard copy (10 cents/page).

You may check on the status of your case by going to our FOIA webpage at [www2a.cdc.gov/od/foiastatus](http://www2a.cdc.gov/od/foiastatus) and entering this number. If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Laura Spencer at 770-488-6290.

We reasonably anticipate that you should receive documents by July 3, 2019. Please know that this date roughly estimates how long it will take the agency to close requests ahead of your request in the queue and complete work on your request. The actual date of completion might be before or after this estimated date.

Sincerely,



Roger Andoh  
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Office of the Chief Operating Officer  
(770) 488-6399  
Fax: (404) 235-1852